

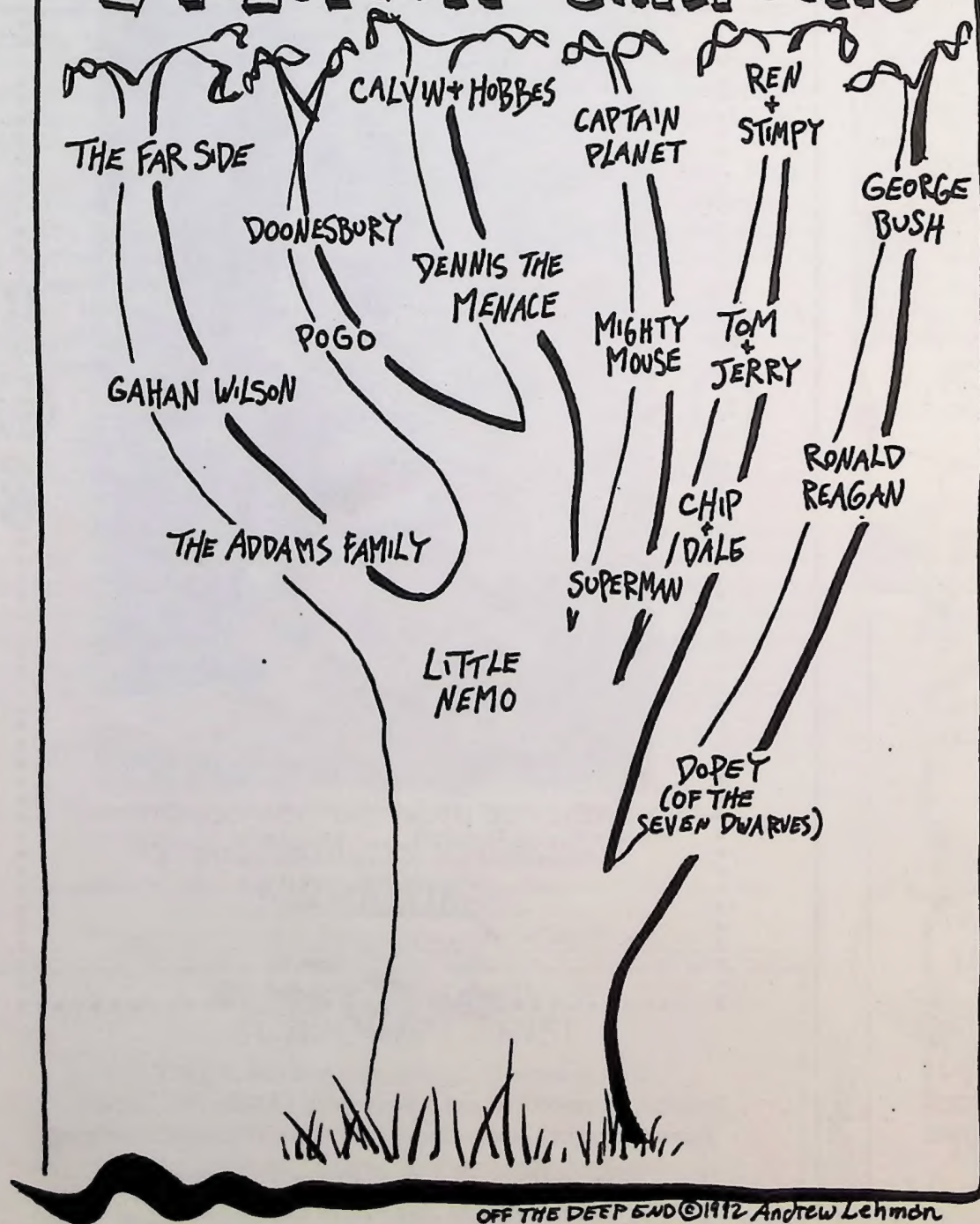
EPISODE #70
September 3, 1992

The Valley COMIC

N ♦ E ♦ W ♦ S

FEATURES: THE FAR SIDE, DOONESBURY,
CALVIN & HOBBS, VIEWS OF THE WORLD,
JOE BOB BRIGGS, LEOLD, THIS MODERN WORLD,
TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT, EARTHWEEK,
IZZY GESELL'S HUMOR ME,
LOCAL HEROES

AN EVOLUTION OF CARTOONS



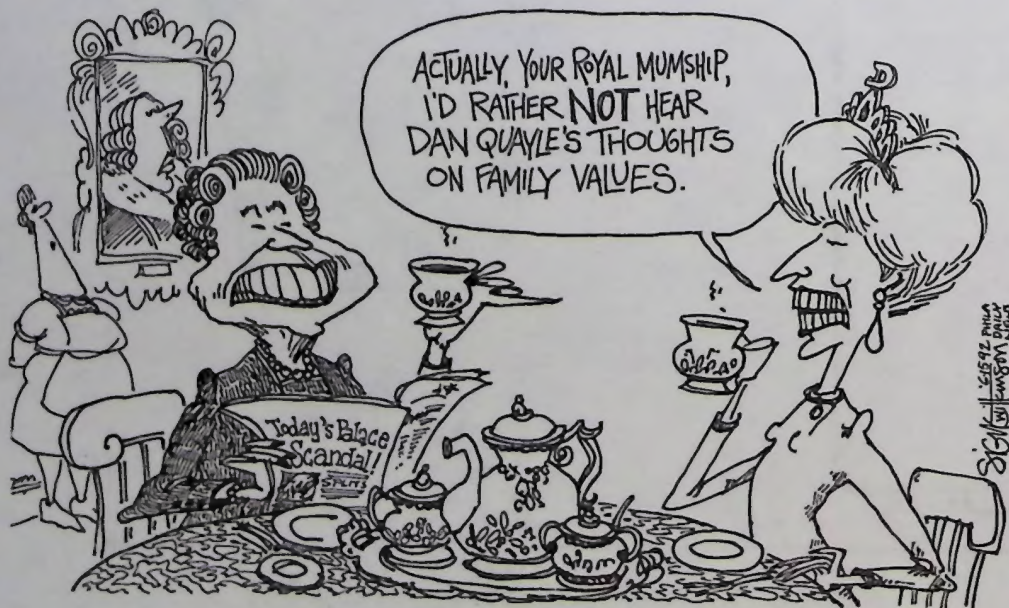
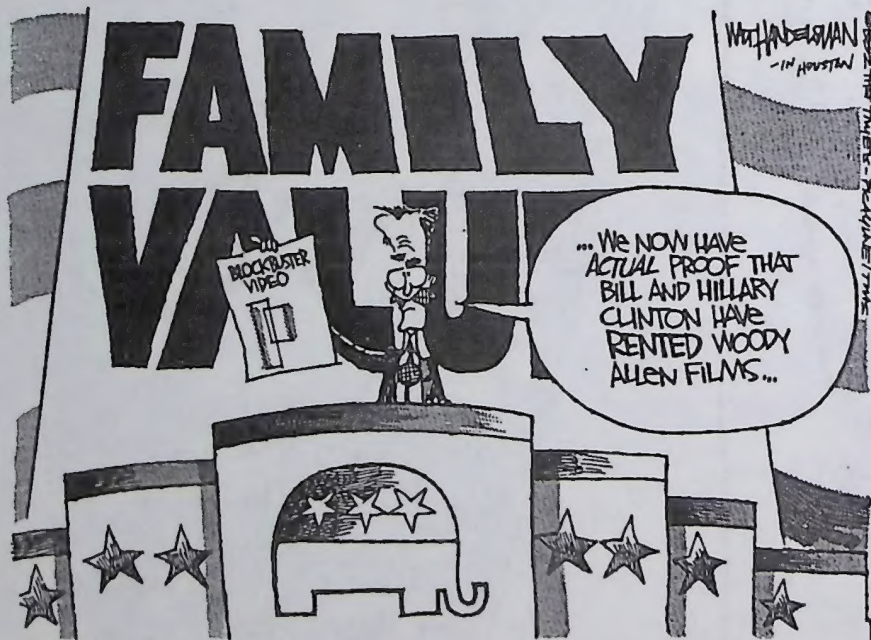
OFF THE DEEP END ©1992 Andrew Lehman

INSIDE

STORIES:
IRAQ 'N' ROLL
RUNNING ON EMPTY
CHOICE 'N THE HOOD
FAMILY VAL-U PAK
BEYOND POLITIX
OTHER STUFF



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PAGE THREE

by Mike Chrisman

Well, we're two-thirds of the way through 1992, and that can only mean one thing: it's time to name the next decade. No, I don't mean the nineties, dummy; that's *this* decade. And they already have a name: The *Nineties*. I mean the *next* decade — those years that open up every century and have zeroes in them. The ones hardly any of us had a look at last time around. The ones your Uncle Buster gets laughs with when he scrunches over like an old geezer and says, "I remember back in aught-six, sonny...." That's how you spell it, you know: "Aught." I looked it up. You probably always thought Uncle Buster was saying "ought," which shows you don't read the dictionary nearly enough, and your literate friends probably think you're a loser.

Frankly, I'm kinda annoyed that I have to come to *you* with this important spelling information because you're not really on the ball the way I hoped. So if you can just tear yourself away from the TV for five minutes, maybe you can redeem yourself and make that contribution to civilization you've always fantasized about. Here's how. You can play "Name That Decade," and become one of a small group of people (Joan of Arc, Catherine of Aragon, Oprah of Chicago) who has changed the course of history.

All you have to do is send me A Name For The Next Decade, with an explanation of why that should be the name the decade will go by for the remainder of recorded time. I offer the following as examples (in fact, you can actually steal any of these if you come up with a written explanation for why you used them that's more insightful, wittier, and has less ketchup spilled on it than mine):

The Pre-Teens. The perfect name for something that comes before (or "pre-") the teens. Examples of this usage of "pre-" in everyday language include the common words "pre-mature," meaning "before you're mature;" "pre-monition," meaning "before you have a monition;" and "pre-vent," meaning "before you install a bathroom fan."

The Post-Nineties. Admittedly, a variation on the "Pre-Teens" theme. This term would adequately describe something that stands solidly, like a post, so the nineties couldn't get loose and wreak havoc in the next decade, like the sixties did with the seventies until Nixon was re-elected.

The Nothings. Or (for the benefit of our Hispanic friends) The Nadas. People would have a lot of fun with this one. They'd make clever variations on the Nothing theme: The Zips, The Goose-Eggs, The Shut-Outs, etc. You (in the role of your beloved Uncle Buster) would scrunch over like an old geezer and tell your nieces and nephews, "I remember back in zilch-six, sonny...."

The Ohs. Or (remembering that advertisers control our spelling) The Oze. This is my personal favorite, and I really hope it catches on. Imagine the opportunities to use "oze" in normal conversation:

"Hey, dija see that show on holovision last night?"

"Huh-uh. What about?"

"Nudity in the oze — first the president, now the Pope."

"Thermal, man; I'm sure psyched I live in the oze; Grandma says they're like the sixties."

See how easy it is to play "Name That Decade?" Now all you have to do is send your personal suggestion to me, in care of this newspaper, and then wait until our distinguished panel of judges gets out of jail and awards you the prize. Just kidding about our judges. They're not distinguished at all. The winner (or winners, in the event the judges kill each other) will receive some valuable prizes, including a year's free subscription to this very paper! Plus, your friends might not think you're such a loser.

The Valley Comic News

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Publisher/Editor • Mike Chrisman Founder • David Hooks

Co-Publisher • Izzy Gesell Advertising Director • Silvana Gravini

Common Pleas • Hank Ryan Printing • The Recorder • Greenfield, Mass.

Copying • Paradise Copies Graphic Design • Sean Slattery

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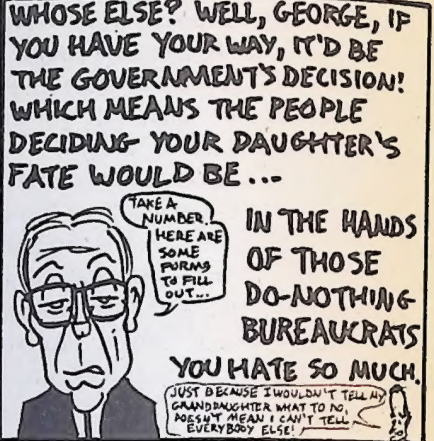
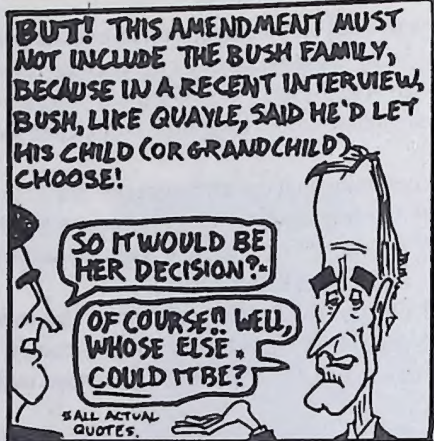
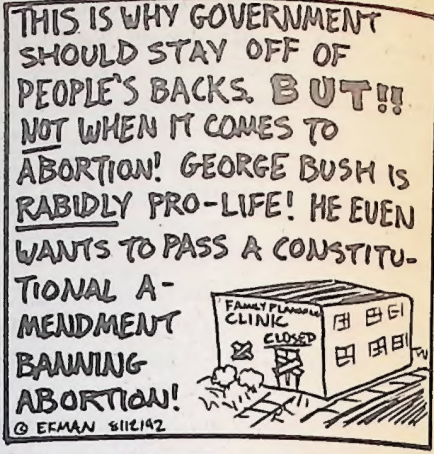
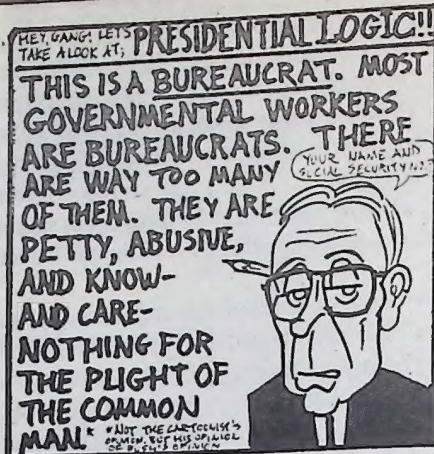
CHOICE 'N THE HOOD

CHUCK THE COUNCILMAN OFFER BY TITMUS

REPUBLICAN PLATFORM PLANK FOR PRO-CHOICE WOMEN...



SPOTZ THE TIMES-PEACEMAN
WAT HANDELSMAN THIS



SPOTZ THE TIMES-PEACEMAN
WAT HANDELSMAN
-IN HOUSTON

Q. WHAT POSITION DO THE REPUBLICANS TAKE ON THE ABORTION CONTROVERSY?..



RUNNING ON EMPTY

EVEN MORE PRESIDENTIAL LOGIC!!!

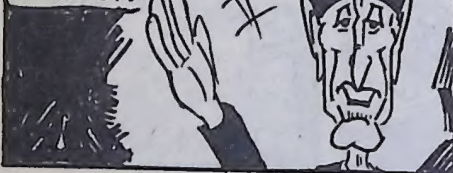
PEOPLE'VE BEEN GOIN' 'ROUND, 'N' ASKIN' ME 'BOUT WHY'D I CALL- SECOND GUESSIN' ME, GOT CONCERN THERE- JIM BAKER TO TH' CAMPAIGN...



THEY SAY, "GEORGE, HOW COME YOU PULLED BAKER OUTA TH' STATE DEPT., JUST WHEN- AND DON'T THINK I'M NOT AWARE OF IT- ABOUT T' EMBARK ON SOME EXTREMELY DELICATE MID-EAST PEACE TALKS. ISN'T THAT BAD FOREIGN POLICY?"



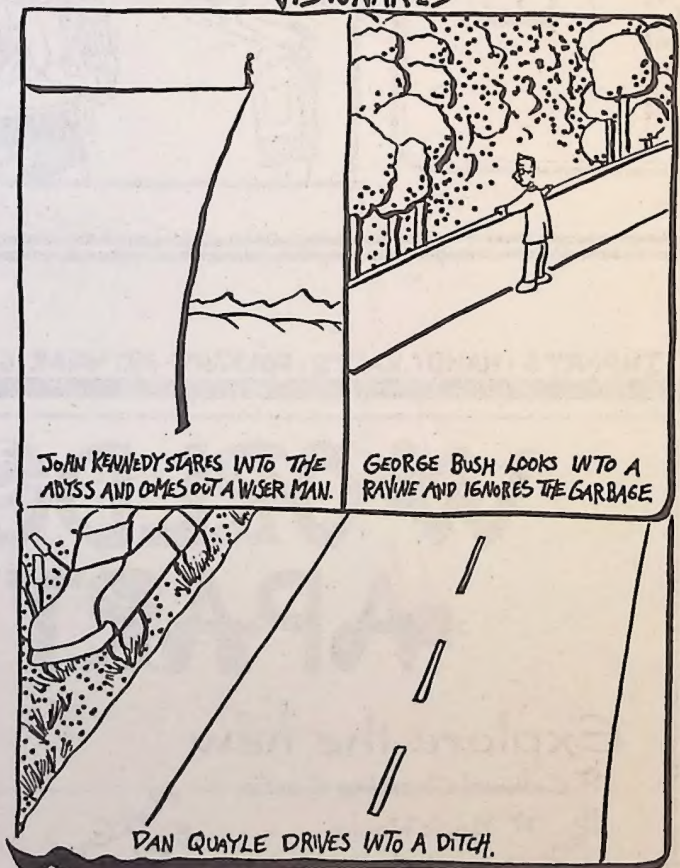
WELL, BECAUSE I NEED JIM T'HELP ME GET MY MESSAGE OUT THERE. GET THE RECORD OUT, SHOW PEOPLE MY STRENGTHS COMPARED TO THE OTHER GUY... 'SPECIALLY MY MAIN STRENGTH



FOREIGN POLICY!



VISIONARIES



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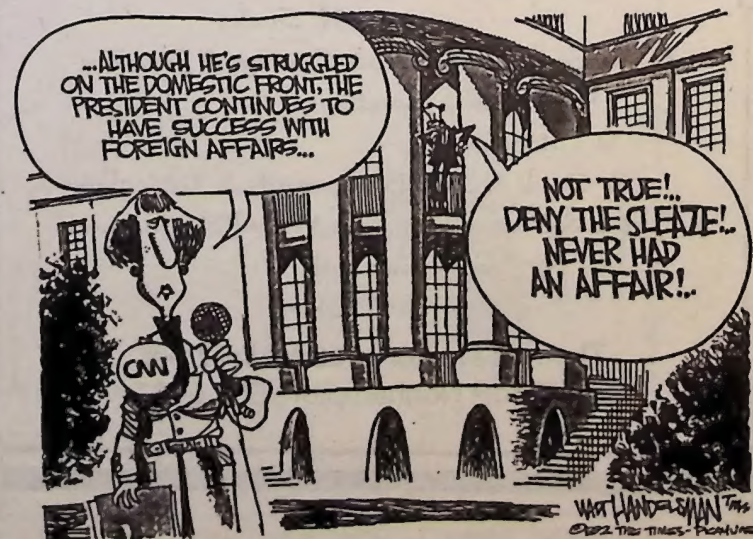
The Republican Platform.....



...HOW THEY WANT US TO SEE IT...

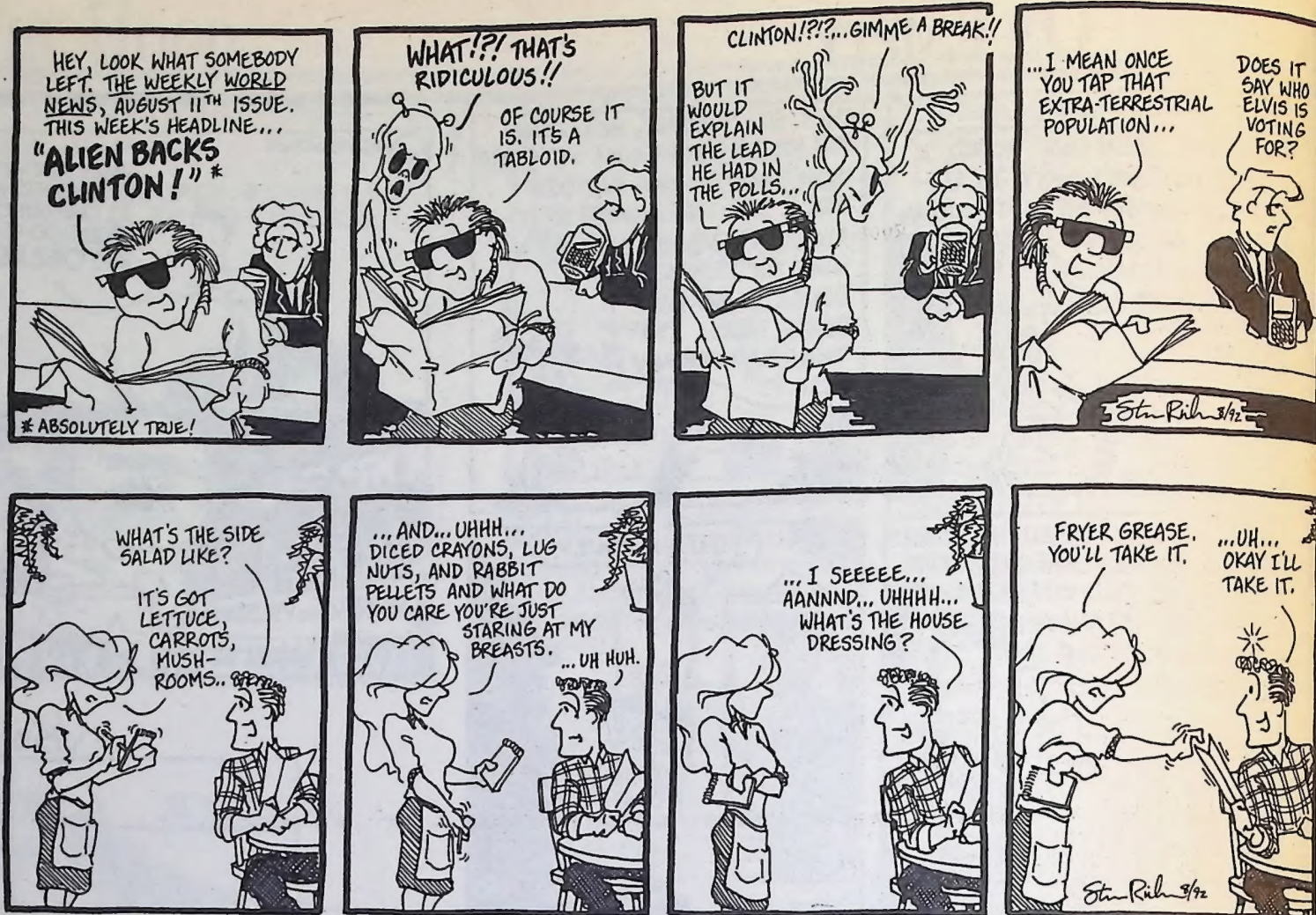


...HOW IT'S SEEN.....



THE BRASS & FERN

By Steve Riehm



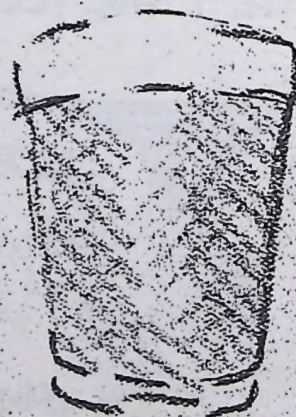
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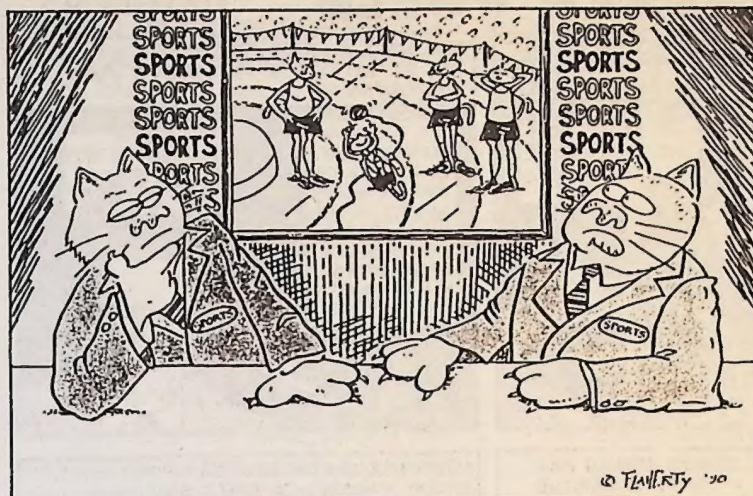
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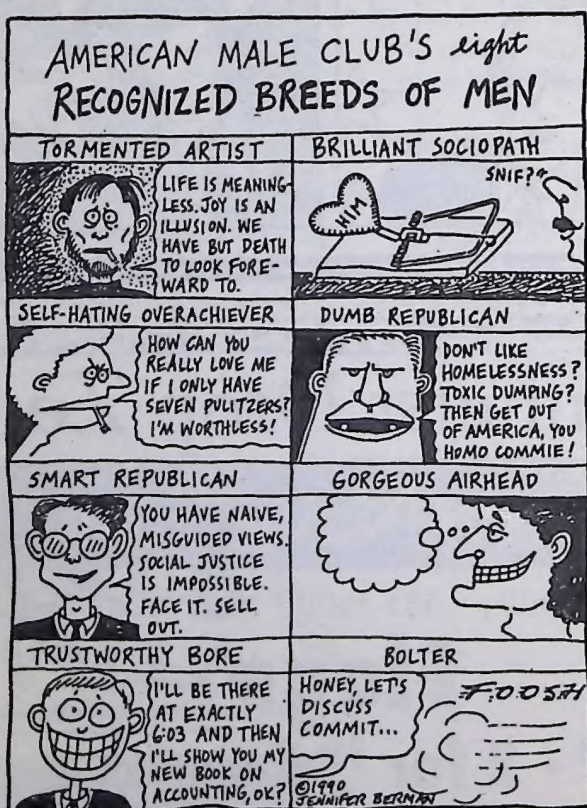
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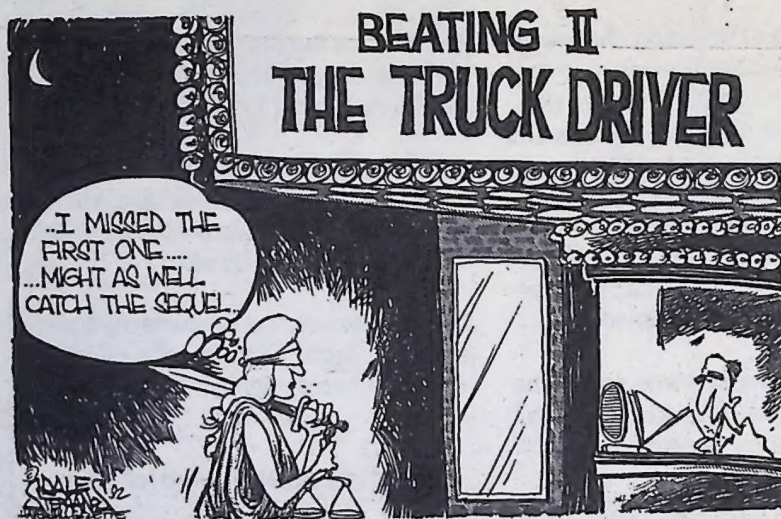
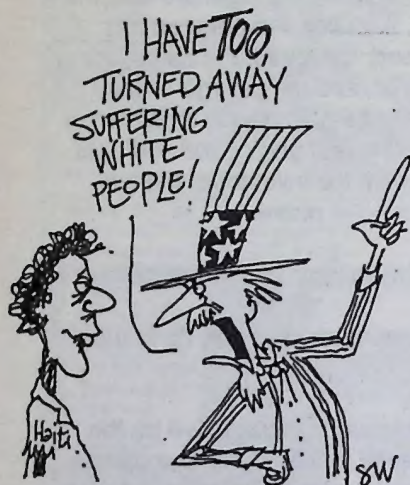


"Bobo has repeatedly denied using catnip, Dave, but if you look very carefully at this footage taken just prior to his last race.....!"



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REASON #726 WHY DOGS ARE BETTER THAN MEN:

NO DOG EVER VOTED TO CONFIRM CLARENCE THOMAS.



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JOE BOB BRIGGS

What's the number one thing you do to make *certain* you'll get a divorce later?

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Tell *People* magazine how wonderfully in love you are and how you've found the perfect lover/friend/soulmate that you want to spend the rest of your life with.

Why do people do this?

Do they like pain or what?

Hasn't anybody figured out that almost *everyone* who does this ends up getting divorced, separated, blown, up, whatever, within two years?

Remember Leon Isaac Kennedy and Jayne Kennedy?

Remember Mark Gastineau and Brigit Nielsen?

Remember Burt Bachrach and Carole Bayer Sager?

Remember — better get a barf bag for this one — remember David Birney and Meredith Baxter-Birney?

It's almost an *absoluterule*,

like God made it or something:

Any couple which goes around slobbering all over each other in the media *will* be ripped asunder.

What made me think of it is another "We're so much in love" cover of *People* last week — with Princess Stephanie of Monaco and her bodyguard-turned-fiance Daniel Ducruet, talking about their love child while they frolic in the surf.

I wish them well. I really do. I hope they get married and stay together for 50 years. But why do they say things like this?

She: "It is a happiness of such intensity, there are no words to explain it."

He: "The first time we met, we exchanged a glance, and we couldn't stop looking at each other. And now a baby is going to emerge from that lovely little belly."

She: "He helped me greatly to grow up. He really loves me for myself."

He: "Each of us lived what had to be lived (while dating other people the last four years), but we remained very close to each other, in our hearts, at least."

She: "Our children will not be unhappy."

I mean, even if they believe these things, even if they say them to *each other*, why would *anybody* tell a reporter these things, to be printed, saved, stored in an archive somewhere?

Let's say they have a fight. Don't get me wrong. I hope they *never* have a fight. But, just assuming they're like 99 percent of people who get married, let's suppose they *might* have a fight somewhere down the line.

All of those *public* statements become *weapons* for the fighters.

He: "I thought you said it was the most intense love you'd ever felt."

She: "You said you could never stop looking at me. But I

don't see that in your eyes anymore."

He: "It was *me* who taught you how to grow up. You said so yourself."

She: "I thought you loved me for *myself*. Obviously I was wrong."

He: "I thought you said the child would never be unhappy. Look at him. He's constantly *crying*. Whose fault is that?"

Isn't it fairly simple to see how, if you start blabbing about personal stuff to the whole world, it turns back on you?

Wouldn't it be better just to say stuff like "I love you and I'll always love you," but do it *privately*? So that everything is based on the *feeling* and not the *announcement* of the feeling?

In other words, when the guy from *People* shows up, *slam the goldurn door in his face*.

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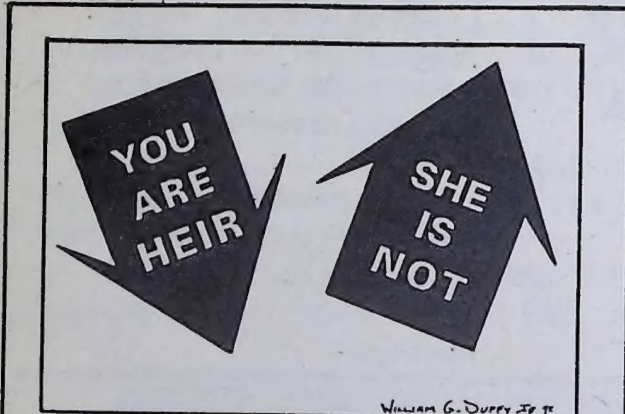
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by Bob Flaherty

THINK'R



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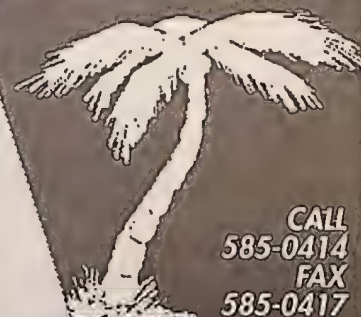
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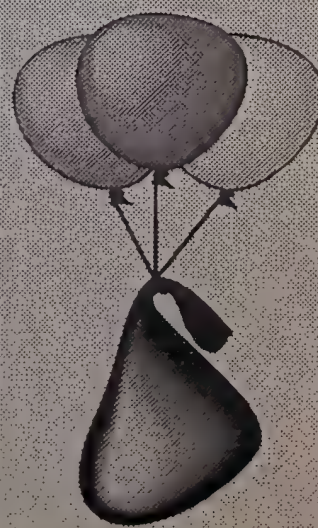
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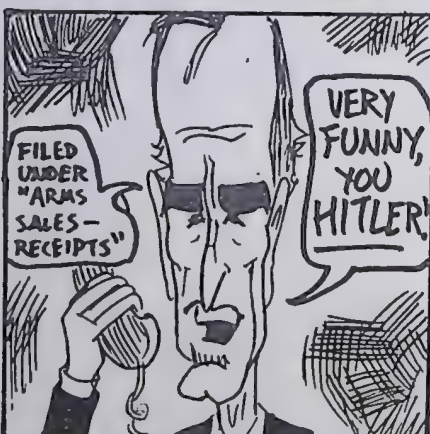
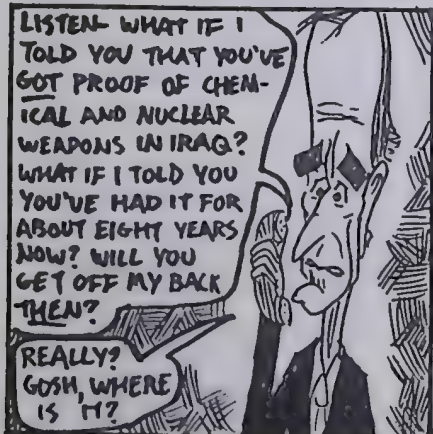
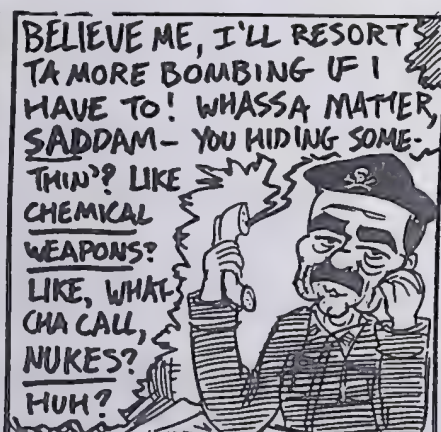
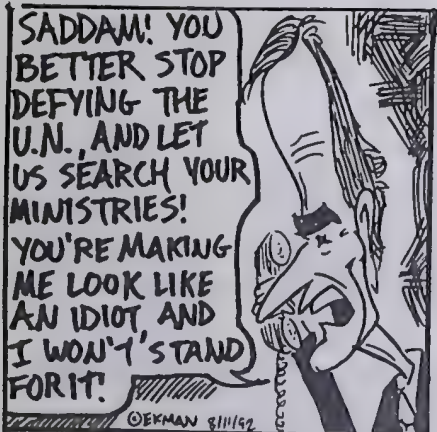
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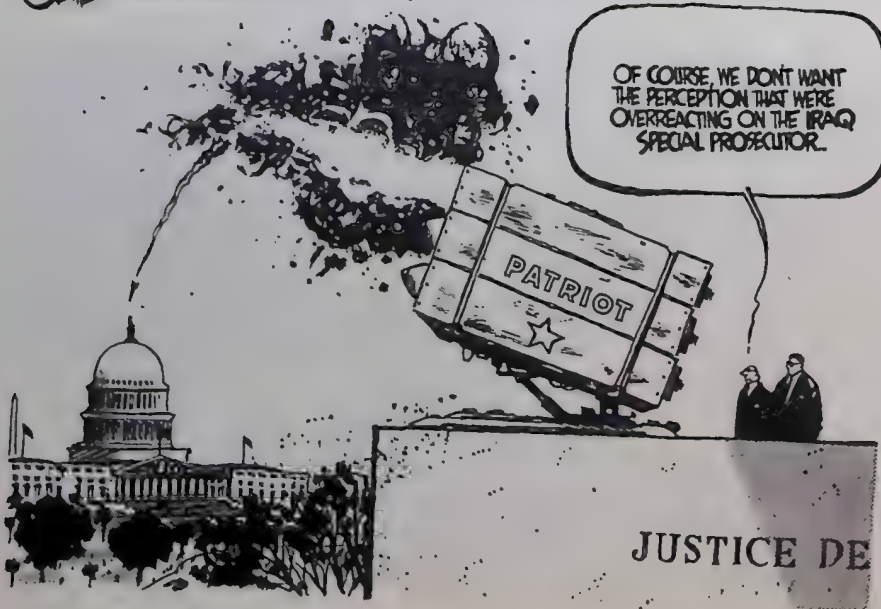
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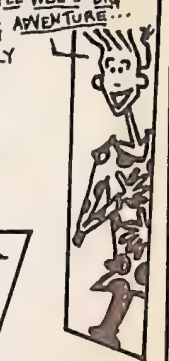
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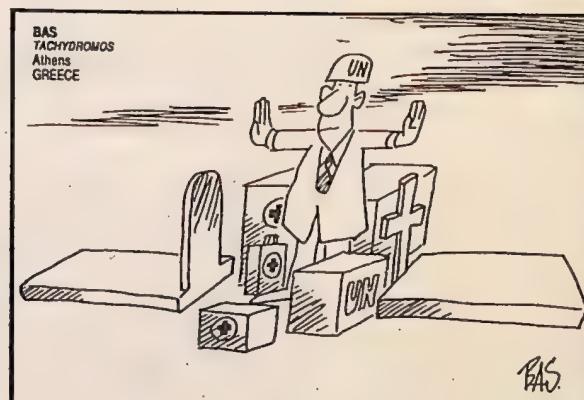
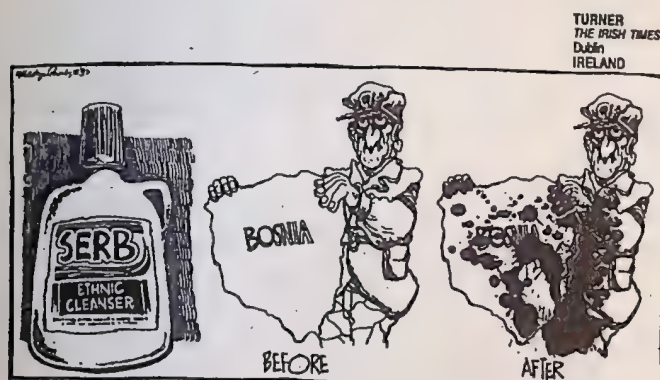
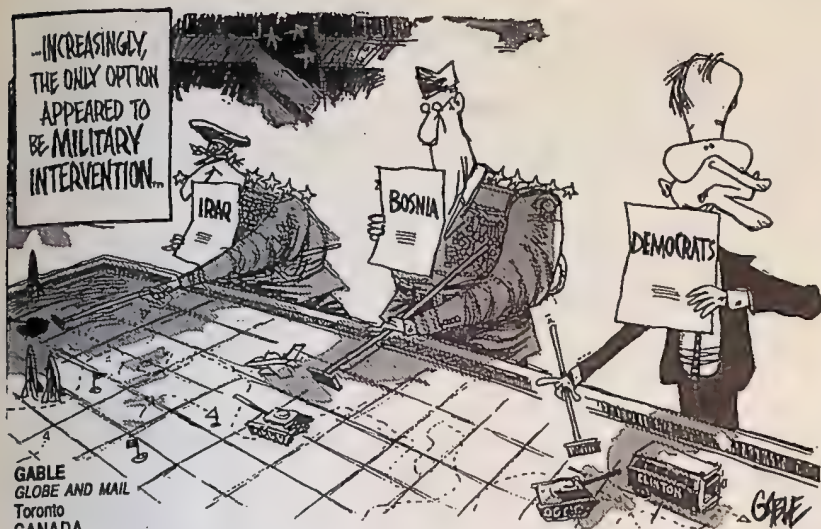
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LOCAL HEROES



Hey Stan, y'ever notice
this teenie weenie little crack
in your microwave before?

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NIFTY SAVINGS WE'D GET ON
MEXICAN IMPORTED GOODS!**



AWRIGHT, SO WE'D ONLY
SAVE A COUPLE CENTS
ON A FEW PRODUCTS...

**BUT! SINCE MEXICO HAS NO EN-
VIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS,
EMPLOYER-PROVIDED HEALTH CARE
OR MINIMUM-WAGE LAWS, IT'S A
LOT CHEAPER TO RUN A BUSINESS
THERE! SO, THERE'LL PROBABLY
BE A SIGNIFICANT LOSS OF
JOBS, AND MAYBE SOME LAY-
OFFS.**



**YET, THE PRESIDENT INSISTS THE
TREATY WILL BE GOOD FOR THE
AMERICAN WORKER!**



**HEY, YOU NEGATIVE MEDIA GUY!
WHEN YOU'RE UNEMPLOYED, A FEW
CENTS MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE!**

ALL I REALLY NEED
TO KNOW, I LEARNED
FROM MY DOG
first lesson:

A person's scent is
crucial to obtain upon
first meeting.

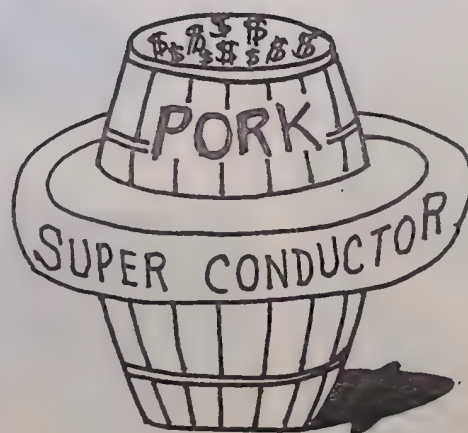
Hello there,
pleased to...
er...ah...
What are you
doing?



SNIFF
SNIFF

Hi, nice to meet you.
Excuse me a moment.

THE RIGHT SIDE



F. JAMES CORWIN '92

A SUPER BOONDOGGLE ???



"Well, I'll be darned. It says here that the transit system
has agreed to merge with the sanitation department. Maybe now we'll
get picked up and dropped off on time."

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By Steve Newman

Deadly Hurricanes

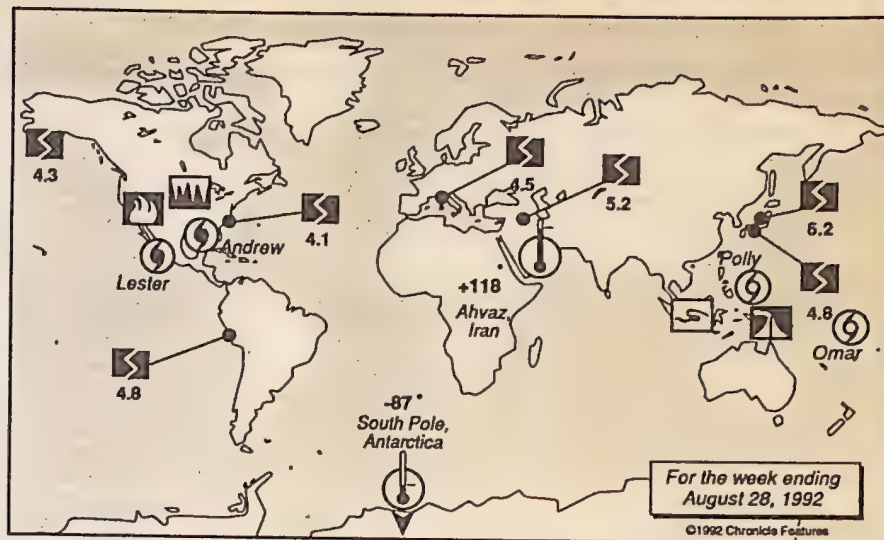
Hurricane Andrew struck south Florida and then the bayous of Louisiana, killing at least 25 people, and leaving another 250,000 homeless. It may be the costliest disaster in American history. Andrew swept across the Miami Metrozoo causing death and injury to hundreds of animals and birds. One dazed elephant escaped the damaged zoo and was seen wandering amid the devastation. Zoo officials pleaded for people to help round up and feed the animals that were left. Three hundred rare tropical birds were also killed at the zoo.

The hurricane is also blamed for the death of a 16-year-old dolphin named Splash at Ft. Lauderdale. Officials at the Ocean World theme park said the dolphin's pool was filled with storm debris and that she died of stress. Damage estimates from the storm range up to \$15 billion.

Hurricane Lester left more than 5,000 people homeless as it struck Mexico's Pacific Coast near Baja. Lester destroyed several small communities west of the city of Hermosillo and cut the main highway that leads to the U.S. city of San Diego. The hurricane also caused minor flooding in California, Colorado, and Utah as it dissipated over the central United States.

Summer Snow

Cold arctic winds swept into the Canadian province of Alberta and the state of Montana with temperatures as low as 35 degrees Fahrenheit. The cold and snow may have destroyed 90 percent of the wheat and barley crops in Alberta, causing commodity prices to rise. One foot of snow fell on some parts of Montana and closed several major highways. Heavy, wet snow bent crops and snapped tree branches in the provincial capital of Edmonton.



Wildfires

Crews in Idaho and California are attempting to contain large wildfires burning in the western U.S. In Idaho, a 127-mile fire line was constructed to corral the blaze that covers more than 250,000 acres. Firefighters were helped in their battle by cold arctic winds and snow which blew into the state this week. Containment is not expected until early September.

Five miles of containment line have been cut around a blaze in California that has burned more than 65,000 acres of timber. Thousands of people from several small towns were forced to evacuate.

Earthquakes

Podgorica, the capital of the Yugoslav state of Montenegro, was rocked by a 4.5 temblor which caused thousands of people to run into the streets.

No damage or casualties were reported. Tremors were recorded in Japan, the Aleutian Island, southern Peru, Kyrgyzstan, and Charleston, South Carolina.

Mt. Pinatubo Ash

Monsoon rains triggered a series of explosions of superheated debris on the slopes of Mt. Pinatubo, and 200,000 people had to seek shelter because of the ashfall and the threat of a new eruption. Ash and mud was thrown as far as Clark Air Base, 10 miles east of the volcano. Philippine seismologists recorded more than 750 earthquakes near the volcano in a 24-hour period.

Tropical Storms

U.S. military officials on the island of Guam moved aircraft and ships to safety and Civil Defense officials ordered schools closed as tropical storm

Omar approached. Omar was expected to strike the island on Friday with winds up to 65 miles per hour. Tropical storm Polly churned through the sea near the Philippine Island of Luzon.

SNAKE ATTACK

In Seremban, Malaysia, a man who became angry with a snake that bit him swallowed the reptile alive. Authorities say Krishnan Muniandy swallowed the one-foot-long snake "to teach it a lesson." Muniandy said, "I caught it but it bit me and I got so angry that I swallowed it." He was rushed to a nearby hospital after he developed stomach trouble. Doctors there X-rayed his stomach and confirmed that the snake was dead. Muniandy said however, "I can still feel something moving in my stomach."

Additional Sources: U. S. Climate Analysis Center, U. S. Earthquake Information Center, Joint Typhoon Warning Center, Guam and the World Meteorological Organization.

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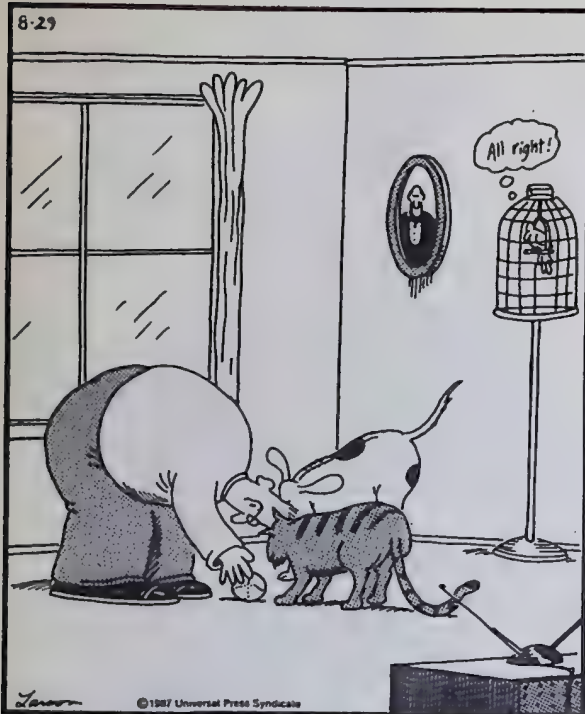


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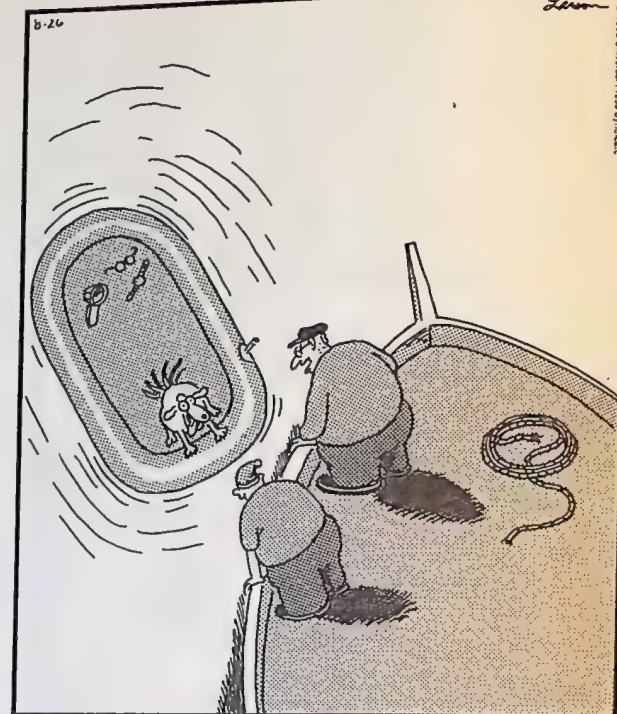
By GARY LARSON



Simultaneously all three went for the ball, and the coconut-like sound of their heads colliding secretly delighted the bird.



Indispensable workers on any porcupine ranch, these amazing dogs will sometimes run across the backs of their charges.



"Hey, boy! How ya doin'?" ... Look at him, Dan. Poor guy's been floating out here for days but he's still just as fat and happy as ever."

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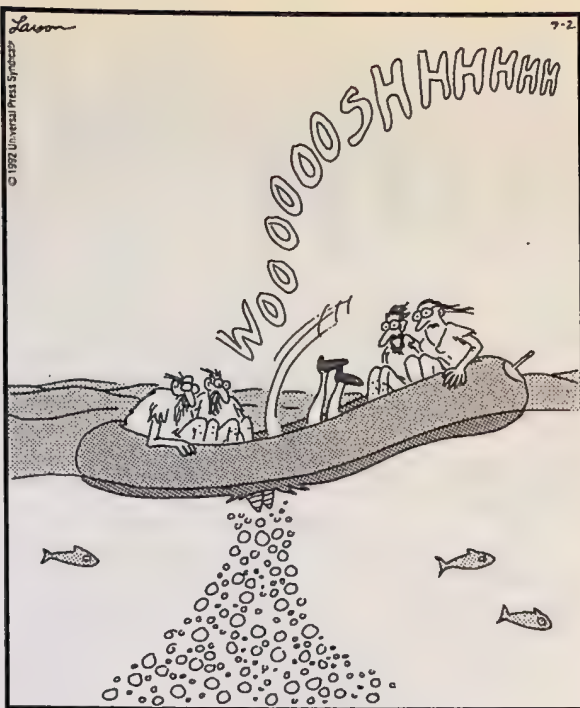
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Every August, the fleas would test their endurance in the grueling Tour de Frank.



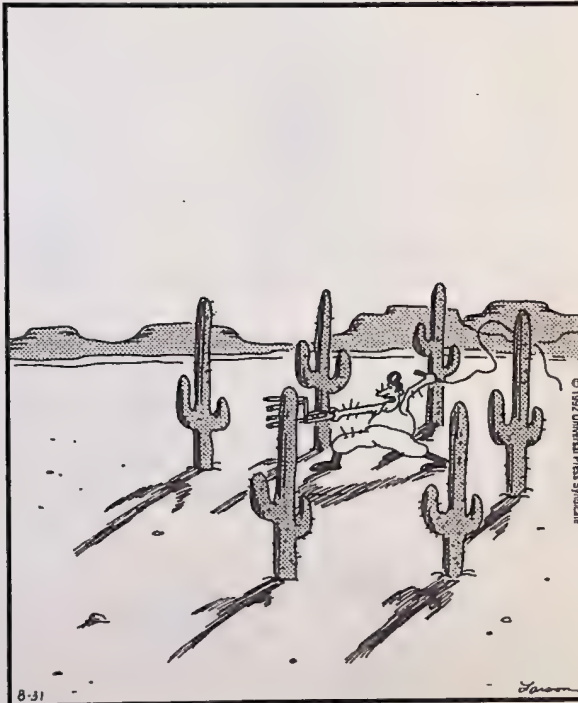
To the horror of the lifeboat's other members, Madonna loses her balance and falls on her face.



"I've never seen this before, Roy! ... They've all stopped running!"



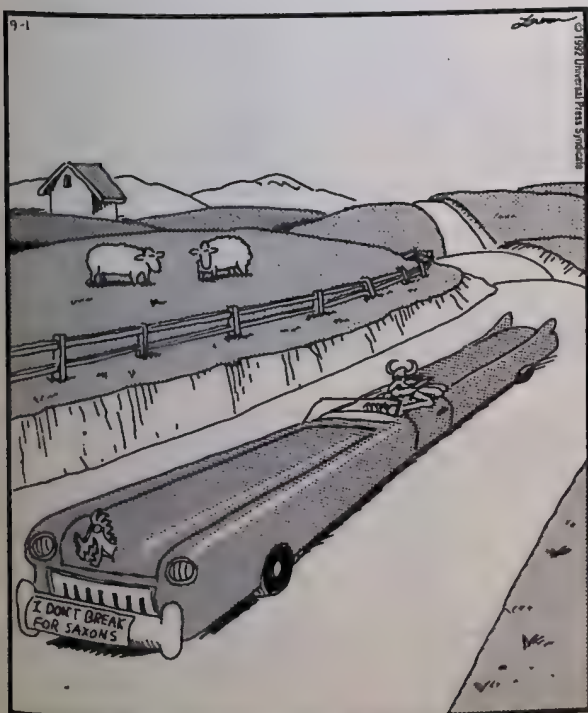
Dizzy Gillespie's seventh birthday party



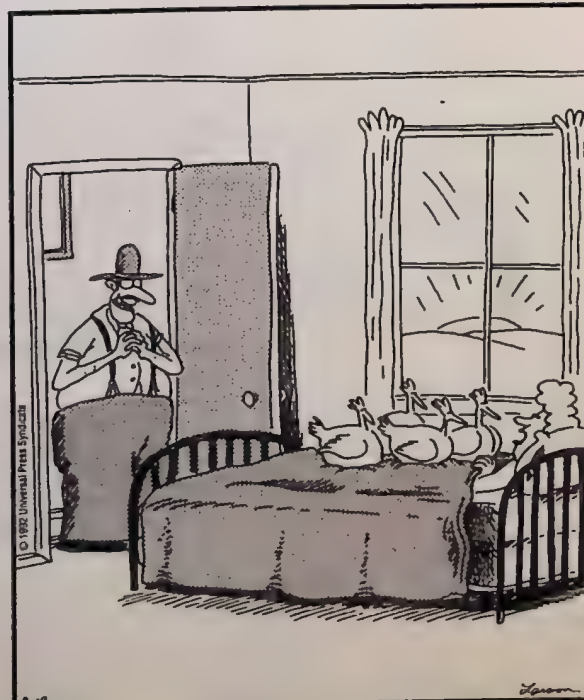
Andre Laffleur: cactus tamer (later killed in central Arizona)



Things from Ipanema



The Viking longcar was once the scourge of European roadways.



"This is it, Maurice! I've warned you to keep your hens off me!"



Hey, I'm only 15, but I'll bet if Jesus knew the atrocities done in the name of Christianity, he'd go off by himself to the local park and have a good cry.

No, No, I know what he'd do.

He'd vomit.

No, No, No, you know what he'd do?

....He'd go shopping.....grab himself some credit cards and go to the mall.

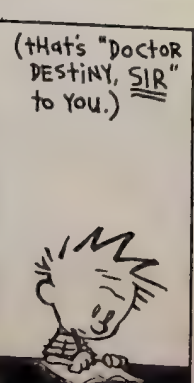
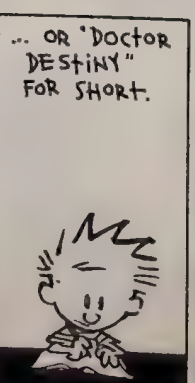
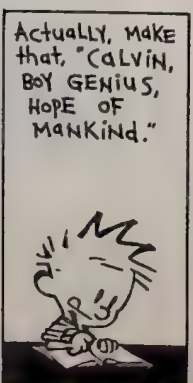
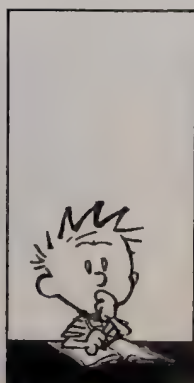
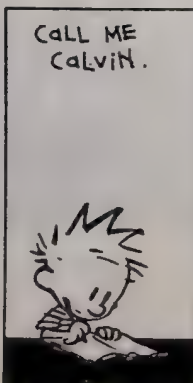
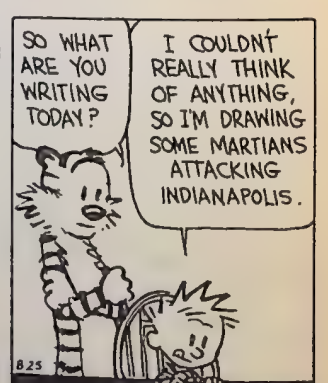
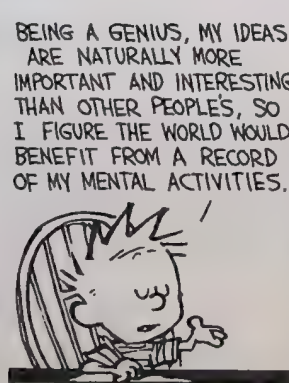
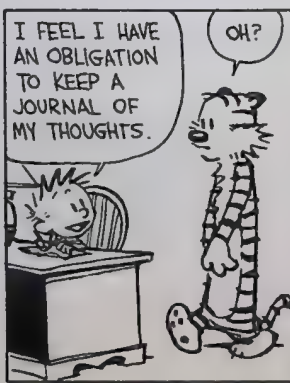
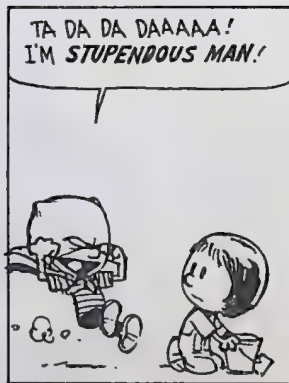
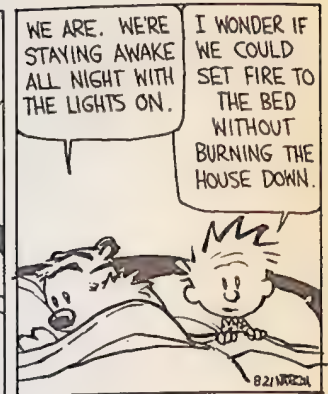
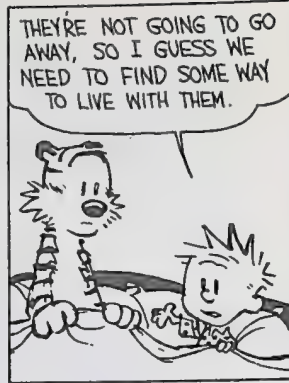
He'd buy so much stuff he'd start foaming at the mouth and telling a bunch of jokes.

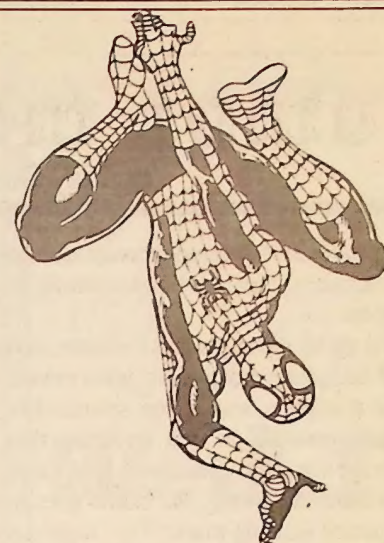
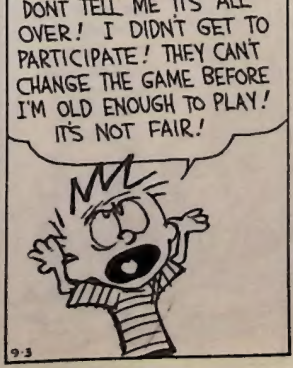
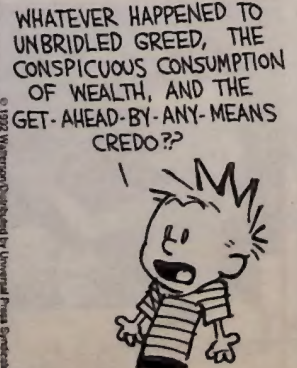
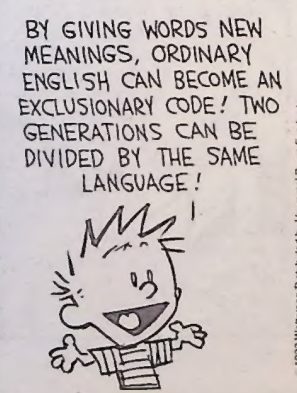
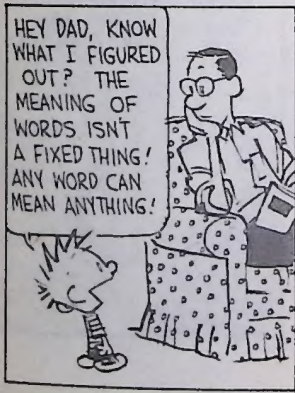
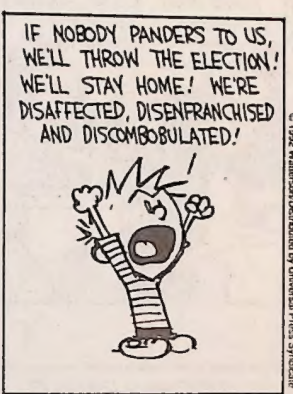
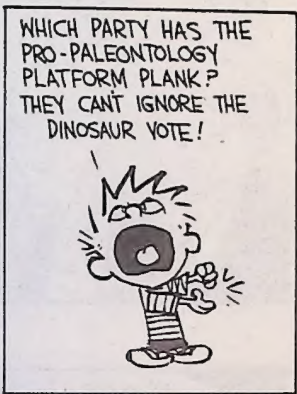
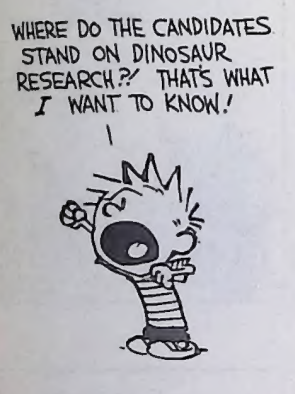
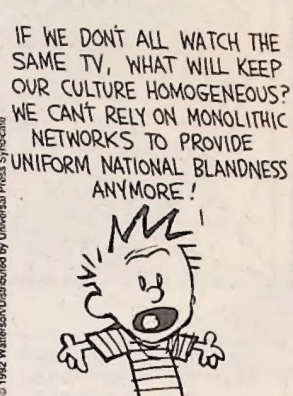
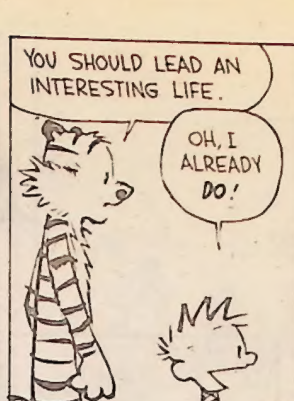
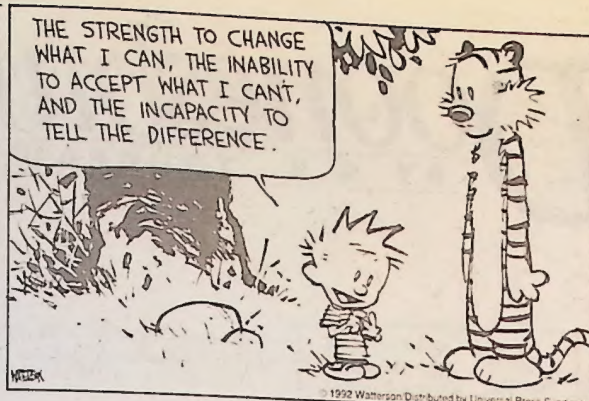
Moses, Mohammed and Ron Kurtz were already there.



calvin and Hobbes

by BILL WATTERSON





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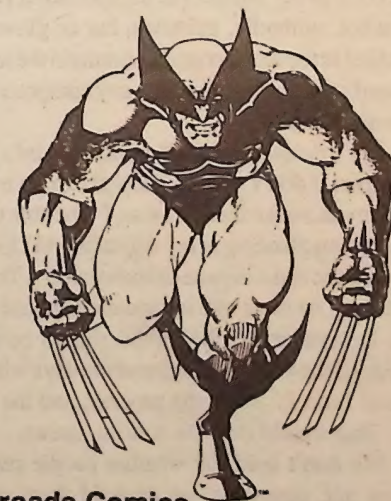
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humor me

by Izzy Gesell

Economists and weather reporters are in professions where accuracy is not necessary. They can be consistently wrong and still keep their positions.

Propped up by theorems and formulae, economists talk about schools of budgetary thought and point toward some fiscal trend as if their discipline was a true science like biology or chemistry. Invariably wrong in their forecasts, they never take responsibility for the inaccuracy presented. Every time one of their prognostications turns out wrong, the blame goes to factors like "poorer than expected housing market" or "higher than expected unemployment figures." Think for a minute. Have you ever heard an economist say, "I don't have a clue as to what's going on. I'm surprised I'm still working." When they are correct it's often by chance. Statistically, there is as much likelihood of an economist making an accurate guess as there is of Tipper Gore singing a Guns & Roses song in a Karaoke bar.

The hardest thing for economists to judge is consumer confidence. You've heard the rationale: "Consumer confidence was weaker than expected," or "consumer confidence didn't rebound as expected." The problem we are dealing with is an outmoded econometric system. The simplest way to gauge consumer confidence correctly would be to combine the Federal Reserve System with the Home Shopping Club and let the Nielsen rating system predict the economy. This would create a structure that could accurately judge consumer confidence while helping companies unload stuff at good prices directly to the consumer.

As a further refinement, and to ease unemployment, the Department of Labor should merge with the new Federal Reserve Home Shopping Network and offer available jobs to viewers who are home anyway because they don't have any work.

Weather reporters are wrong as often as economists so we always hedge our bets on their predictions. Not only do you not need a weatherman to tell you which way the wind blows, you don't need one to tell you if it's going to rain. A five year, longitudinal, double-blind study at the Pittsburgh Meteorological Society used one thousand subjects to determine the most effective precipitation prognosticator. Five hundred Certified Meteorological Scientists were given the most up-to-date equipment. They were accurate 18% of the time. Five hundred Randomly Selected People were given umbrellas and told to take them to work some days and leave them home others. This group was correct 98% of the time, proving the best way to predict rain is to leave the umbrella home.

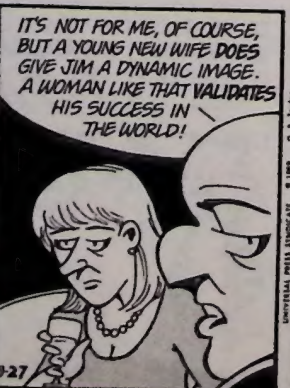
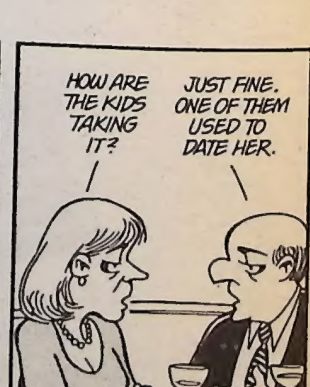
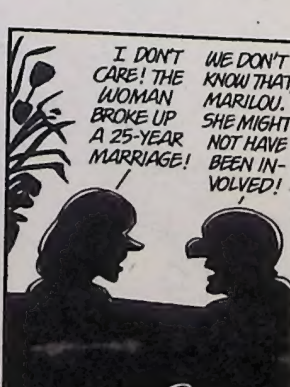
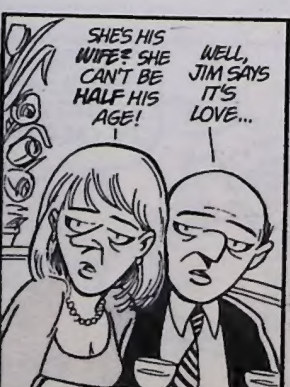
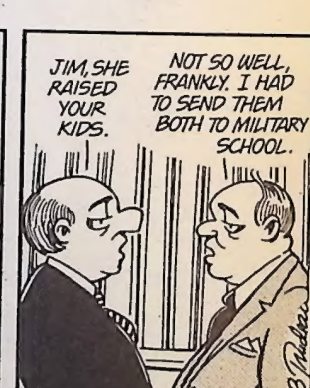
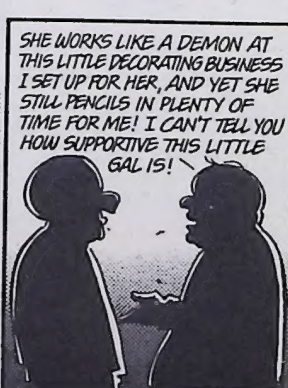
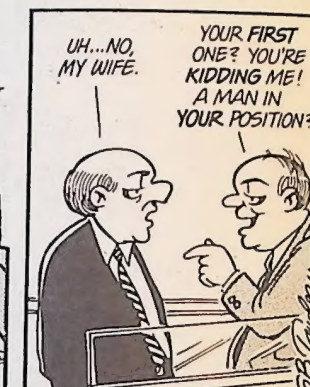
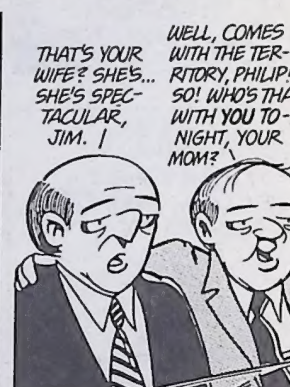
If I ruled the world, the weather segment on the news would consist of the answers to the following two questions: Do I need a jacket, umbrella, galoshes, hat or gloves in order to stay comfortable? Is the weather going to remain the same throughout the day? Armed with this information, any competent human being can take care of the rest.

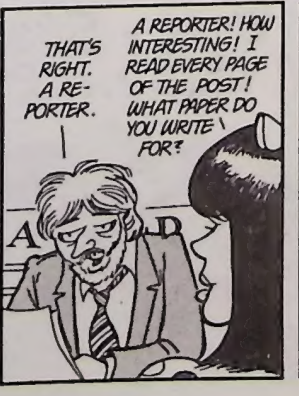
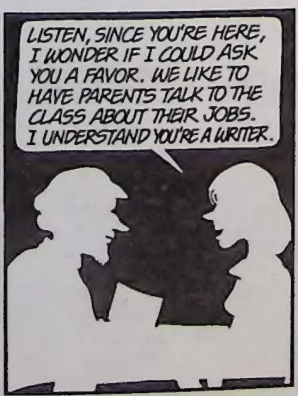
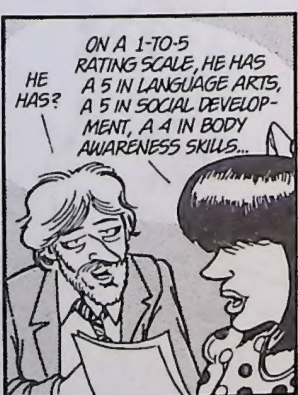
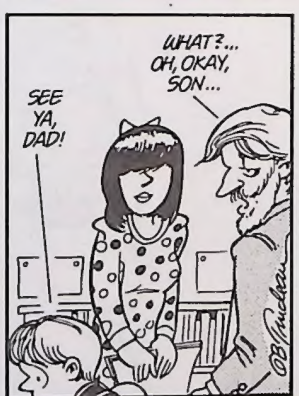
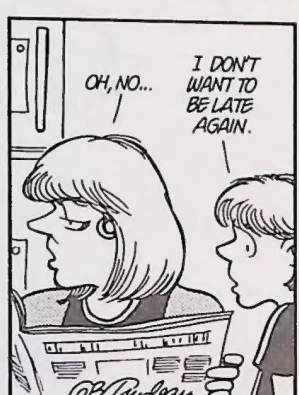
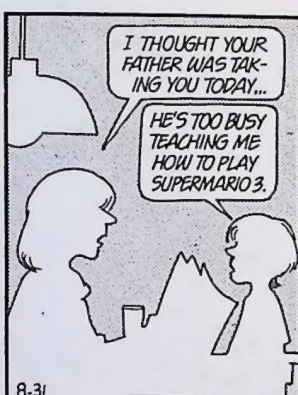
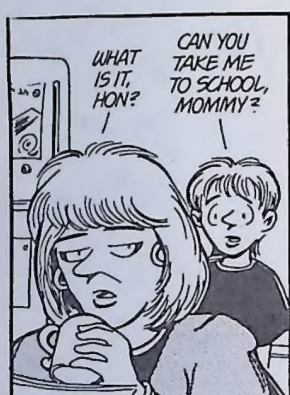
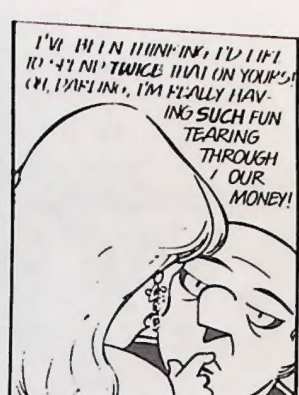
Let's do away with all extraneous info that clutters up the weather report. I don't need to know the exact minute the sun rises because I'm not awake then. If I was, I'd be able to know by looking outside and then glancing at my digital alarm clock. There isn't any need to know the exact minute of sunset either. This, on a daily basis, is useless data. At most, the information should be offered twice a year. On December 21, the public should be reminded that the shortest day of the year is at hand and the days will get progressively longer until June 21 when the process, and the announcement, is reversed. That should do it for sunrise-sunset.

We don't hold the weather people responsible for their predictions but, strangely, we do hold them responsible for the weather itself. They're the ones blamed for the rainy weekend or the lack of a white Christmas. Just once, I'd like to see a weather person respond by holding the news anchor accountable for awful news like the fighting in Bosnia or the Rodney King verdict. "Well, Biff. That's certainly some mess you're reporting in Somalia. Let's see if you can't have a better report at 11."

Doonesbury

BY G.B. TRUDEAU





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